

# Focus on Rescue and Emergency Services in Sweden

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**Abstract.** Lantmäteriet - The Swedish mapping, cadastral and land registration authority - started in November 2009 a user group for actors in rescue and emergency services. The purpose with this user group is to increase the knowledge of the users, their activities and procedures, and current and future needs of geodata. Another purpose is to provide information about Lantmäteriet's geodata (content, quality, structure) among the users.

Twice a year Lantmäteriet gathers the representatives for a dialogue, with national focus, to exchange knowledge and experience. This means that Lantmäteriet increase its own and other actors' insight on access needs and demands. In this way Lantmäteriet get knowledge of what actions Lantmäteriet, actors and the market have to take to give the users better and actual geodata.

Use of both cadastral and geographic information is very important for hazard management and for the emergency services. The ready availability of current and reliable maps and cadastral information is of vital importance for these services.

Common goals in the user group are to increase the understanding about the demands and supply of geodata i.e. cadastral (land) and geographic information. To create a platform for continuous dialogue about common problems and development needs for the national supply of geodata for the emergency operations. In the end the most important thing is that the rescue and emergency services must on the quickest and easiest way "find the correct place".

**Keywords:** Find the correct place, Hazard management, Rescue and emergency services

## **1. Introduction**

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Twice a year Lantmäteriet gathers the representatives for a dialogue, with national focus, to exchange knowledge and experience. This means that Lantmäteriet increase its own and other actors' insight on access, needs and demands. In this way Lantmäteriet get knowledge of what actions Lantmäteriet, actors and the market have to take to give the users better and actual geodata.

## **2. Rescue and Emergency Services in Sweden**

### **2.1. The rescue and emergency services need geodata**

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### **2.2. Participating actors in Lantmäteriet's user group**

Before Lantmäteriet started the user group there was an internal discussion about which actors should be part in the user group. Lantmäteriet decided together with some of the actors that the following organisations should be included in the user group:



- SOS Alarm Ltd. – a company in Sweden that has by an appointment with the Swedish Government the responsibility for handling 112 emergency calls and coordinating the rescue work.



- Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions - municipalities rescue - including rescue unions with several municipalities.



- Swedish Police – central authority and county authorities.
- Swedish Transport Administration.



- Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency.
- Ambulance - which are handled by the country councils.
- State emergency - flight, mountain & sea rescues.

### 2.3. General description of the problems and needs

The user group was initially asked to list up the problems and needs that are connected to geodata which resulted in the following summary:

| Perspective | Problem   | Need  |
|-------------|---|---|
| Content     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Important information is missing</li></ul>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Expanded information content</li></ul>                                  |
| Quality     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Various maps, charts for different parts of the country</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Uniform and nationwide maps</li></ul>                                   |
| Actuality   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Not enough timeliness</li><li>• Prospect information</li></ul>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased timeliness</li><li>• Available planning information</li></ul> |

|                    |  |  |
|--------------------|--|--|
|                    | about new building projects is missing   |  |
| <b>Cooperation</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of interaction</li> </ul>                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More cooperation between the Emergency services</li> <li>• Developed framework agreement between Lantmäteriet and Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions</li> </ul> |
| <b>Price</b>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pricing is not adapted to market</li> </ul>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Market-based prices</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Services</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of good geodata services for the emergency area</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further modelling work to get good service</li> </ul>   |

During the years of 2010 and 2011 Lantmäteriet has produced an action plan to resolve the parts that Lantmäteriet are responsible for. Because of the user group, the actors from rescue and emergency services have started to communicate more frequently. One important thing is that there from 2011 has been developed a geodata cooperation agreement between sixteen authorities who produce geodata in Sweden. This of data sharing has given better access to geodata from these authorities and this also helps also the rescue and emergency services to get an easier access to the Swedish geodata.

#### **2.4. Exchange of cross-border data for crisis management in the Nordic countries for rescue and emergency services**

The Nordic countries Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden have quite a lot of cooperation in cross-border crises management. It is important that in this cooperation it should not be an obstacle to fire,

ambulance and police cars to find the right place when they help with work in neighbouring countries and not that the availability of data is an obstacle in saving lives and preventing property damages.

Therefore the general directors from the Nordic Mapping Agencies (NMA) signed an agreement that gives the rescue and emergency services access to the standard map series in vector and raster formats as well as addresses and place names. The NMA's provides access rights (right of use). The right of use includes use in preparedness and response for each country's public safety partners (emergency services, ambulance, police, or similar) and for each country's preparedness actors (such as civil defence and other security features).

### **3. Conclusion**

A few years ago Lantmäteriet got some criticism from the actors in the Swedish rescue and emergency services for the content, quality, actuality and the pricing of geodata. After starting the work with the user group we have got a good dialogue and a better understanding about the geodata. This area is very important when it is about saving lives and preventing property damages, and in the end the community will save money on this.

Also the work with the cross-border data and the agreement between the Nordic NMA's is a success. Thanks to the agreement geodata has already been used in exercises and in practical cases, but there are still a lot of works remaining in integrating data from different countries.